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AB 1697 (Hall) – Court Security FACT SHEET

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ISSUE

The Legislature passed the Superior Court Law Enforcement Act in 2002, which helped create greater consistency in court security services. The measure simplified the process of negotiating court security services and established a specific set of guidelines for procedures and allowable costs. Unfortunately, the simplified process has not helped ensure adequate funding for court security services. These services continue to be one of the fastest growing parts of the trial court budgets and, according to the Judicial Council, now represent 20 percent of the trial court budget.

To assist with the increased costs, the Legislature recently adopted a temporary \$10 court security fee increase which is set to expire in 2010.

SOLUTION

AB 1697 extends the \$10 court security fee increase until 2013. The measure also establishes the Court Security Account within the Trial Court Trust Fund. All court security fee funds will be directed into the Court Security Account and can only be used for court security services.

This measure will ensure consistency and the highest level of security at courthouses throughout the state.

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